

Message Text

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FOR BEWT/TPD/ROBB AND MARAD/ARMSTRONG

VIENNA FOR VONTILLIUS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTN, UR, BEXP
SUBJECT: CONTAINERIZATION S/ME, MAY 1977

REF: MOSCOW 20009

1. COMATT AND COMOFF MET DEC 27 WITH A.B. KURSHIN, DEPUTY CHIEF, FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPT., RSFSR MINISTRY OF AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORT, AND MINISTRY CONTAINER SPECIALISTS TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR SUBJECT EVENT. SPECIALISTS EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN SEMINAR AND SUGGESTED THAT PAPERS MIGHT ADDRESS FOLLOWING TOPICS:

-- DESCRIPTION OF U.S. CONTAINER SYSTEMS: WHAT GOODS ARE CARRIED? WHAT KINDS OF CONTAINERS, TRACTORS AND CARRIAGES ARE USED IN AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORT?

-- ECONOMICS OF CONTAINERIZATION; HOW DOES CONTAINERIZATION AFFECT TRANSPORT COSTS? UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS IS IT MORE ECONOMICAL TO USE CONTAINERS?
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-- MECHANICS OF CONTAINER SYSTEMS FROM BEGINNING TO END: WHAT HANDLING EQUIPMENT IS USED IN FACTORIES, STORES, LOADING DOCKS, TRUCKS, ETC.? HOW ARE CONTAINERS USED FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (E.G. POTATOES)?

-- FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTAINER SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY PIGGY BACK, ROLL ON - ROLL OFF, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE CONTAINERS FOR DOMESTIC AND INTRA-CITY TRANSPORT, AND PALLETIZATION.

2. IN DISCUSSING THEMES, SPECIALISTS EMPHASIZED THEIR INTEREST IN PRESENTATIONS DIRECTED TOWARD END-USERS OF CONTAINERS WITH STRESS ON TOTAL SYSTEMS. THEY ALSO HOPED THAT AMPLE TIME WOULD BE ALLOWED FOR QUESTION PERIODS PERMITTING FULL EXCHANGES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SOVIET PARTICIPANTS. TO FACILITATE THIS DIALOGUE, THEY REQUESTED COMPLETE PRODUCT INFORMATION AND AT LEAST SYNOPSES OF PAPERS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.

3. ASKED ABOUT REPETITION OF S/ME IN LENINGRAD, MINISTRY OFFICIALS SUPPORTED IDEA AND PROMISED TO SEND SPECIALISTS FROM BALTIC AREA.

4. COMMENT: A. IT APPEARED FROM DISCUSSION THAT MINISTRY OF AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORT WAS LESS FAMILIAR WITH CONTAINERIZATION THAN MINISTRY OF MARITIME FLEET. WE HOPE THAT BEWT/TPD CAN ORCHESTRATE SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS SO THAT THEY PROVIDE BASICS REQUESTED BY MINISTRY SPECIALISTS BEFORE MOVING ON TO MORE SPECIFIC DESCRIPTIONS OF CONTAINER SYSTEMS EMPLOYING THEIR PRODUCTS.

B. WE WILL PRESS MINISTRY OF RAILROADS AGAIN NEXT WEEK FOR APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS SEMINAR.
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